

App. No. 10/523,865

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## IN THE CLAIMS

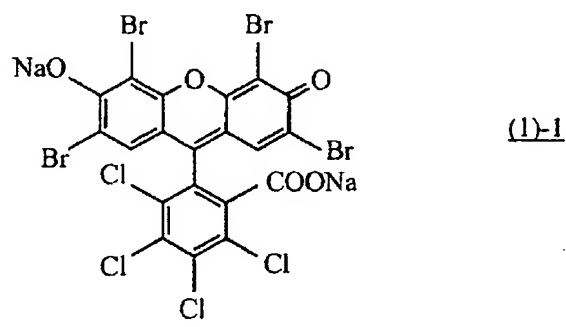
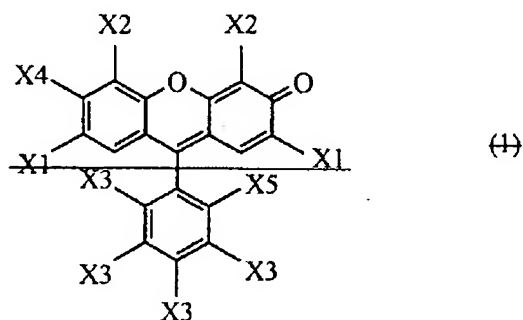
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

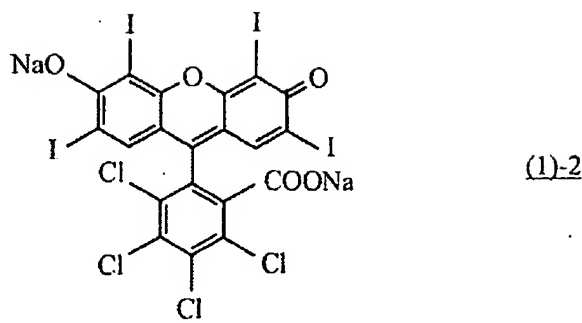
Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for assaying albumin in urine ~~a protein~~ by using a protein assay indicator,

wherein a compound having a chemical structure expressed by one of the following Chemical Formulas (1)-1 and (1)-2 is used as the protein assay indicator:



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where, in Chemical Formula (1), X1 is a halogen, a nitro group, or a nitroso group; X2 is a halogen; X3 is a halogen or hydrogen; X4 is a hydroxyl group or a salt thereof; and X5 is a carboxyl group or a salt thereof.

2.-4. (canceled)

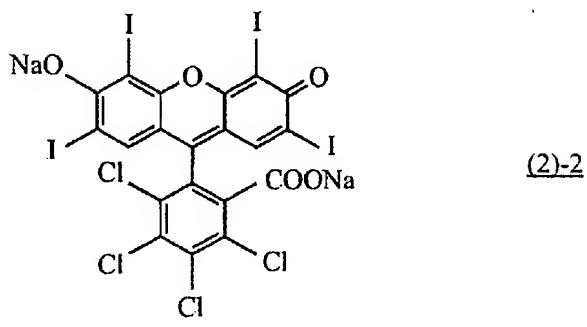
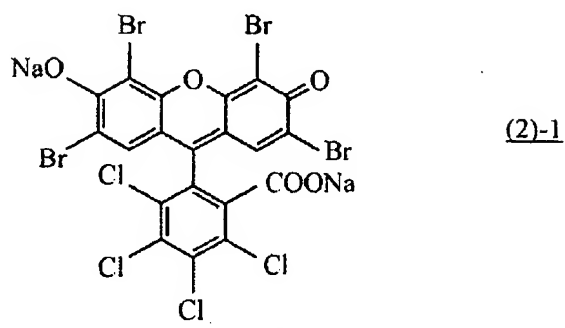
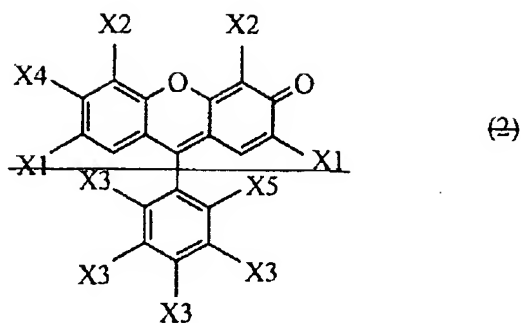
5. (currently amended) The ~~protein assay~~ method according to claim 1, wherein the protein indicator is from colorless to light orange in color when no protein is present at a pH equal to or below the pKa of said protein indicator, but is from red to purple in color when a protein is present.

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The ~~protein assay~~ method according to claim ~~[[6]]~~ 1, wherein albumin concentration is measured for an albumin-containing sample whose albumin concentration is between 10 and 20 mg/dL.

8. (currently amended) A protein assay indicator for assaying albumin in urea ~~a protein~~, said indicator having a chemical structure expressed by one of the following Chemical Formulas (2)-1 and (2)-2:

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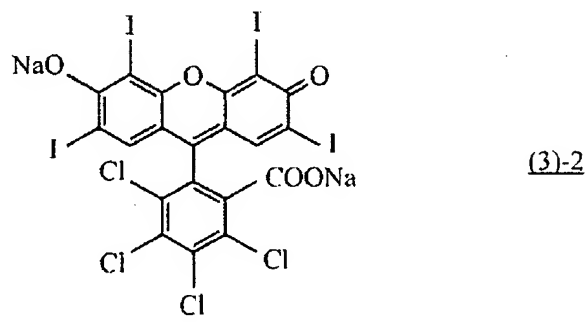
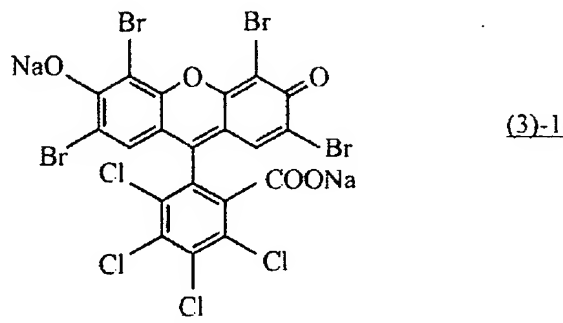
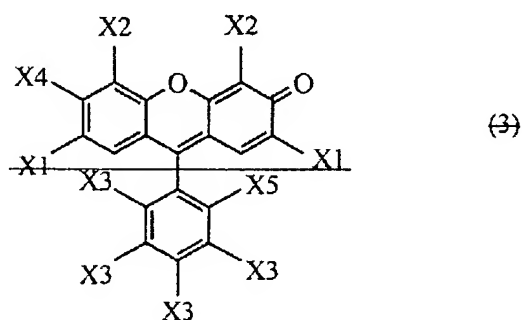
where, in Chemical Formula (2), X1 is a halogen, a nitro group, or a nitroso group; X2 is a halogen; X3 is a halogen or hydrogen; X4 is a hydroxyl group or a salt thereof, and X5 is a carboxyl group or a salt thereof.

9.-11. (canceled)

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12. (currently amended) The protein assay indicator according to claim 8, wherein the indicator ~~being~~ is from colorless to light orange in color when no protein is present at a pH equal to or below the pKa, but is from red to purple in color when a protein is present.

13. (currently amended) A test piece for ~~protein assay~~ used for quantifying or semi-quantifying albumin in urine ~~a protein~~, wherein a compound having a chemical structure expressed by one of the following Chemical Formulas (3)-1 and (3)-2 is used as a protein assay indicator:



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~~where, in Chemical Formula (3), X1 is a halogen, a nitro group, or a nitroso group; X2 is a halogen; X3 is a halogen or hydrogen; X4 is a hydroxyl group or a salt thereof; and X5 is a carboxyl group or a salt thereof.~~

14.-16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The test piece ~~for protein assay~~ according to claim 13, wherein the protein indicator is from colorless to light orange in color when no protein is present at a pH equal to or below the pKa of said protein indicator, but is from red to purple in color when a protein is present.

18. (currently amended) The test piece ~~for protein assay~~ according to claim 13, further containing a sensitizer for increasing the coloration sensitivity with respect to the protein.

19. (currently amended) The test piece ~~for protein assay~~ according to claim 18, containing one of polyethylene glycol ~~and/or~~ polypropylene glycol as the sensitizer.